

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

January 4, 2006

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the Wastewater Improvements Project for the City of Laurel, specifically the replacement of trunk mains in open fields surrounding the City of Laurel Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). This project is expected to help reduce infiltrating groundwater currently being treated at the WWTF. The project involves the following:

- Installation of 784 Lineal Feet (LF) of 42-inch gravity sewer main
- Installation of 1,944 LF of 30-inch gravity sewer main
- Installation of 4,192 LF of 27-inch gravity sewer main
- Installation of 2 EA 84-inch manholes
- Installation of 8 EA 60-inch manholes
- Installation of 7 EA 48-inch manholes
- Gravel and asphalt street repair

All construction will be in previously disturbed sites. It is the Department's judgment that the proposed action meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion under ARM 17.40.318 because: 1) the action includes minor upgrading or replacement of existing facilities, and 2) the action is for a community of fewer than 10,000 persons involves minor upgrading or minor expansion of existing treatment works, does not change existing unit processes and does not directly or indirectly involve the extension of new collection systems. It is the Department's judgment that the proposed project may be granted a Categorical Exclusion because:

1. The facilities will create no new discharges or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters.
2. The facilities will not result in an increase above permit levels established under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System for either volume of discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving waters.
3. The design population for the system improvements is less than 30% greater than the existing population.
4. The action is not expected to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment nor is the action expected to affect sensitive environmental resource areas.
5. No information has been received by the Department indicating that a public controversy exists over the project's potential to affect the quality of the human environment.

Therefore, pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, a Categorical Exclusion for the above referenced project is granted.

This documentation will be available for public scrutiny upon request at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau, 1520 East 6th Avenue in Helena, MT, and at the City of Laurel Office at 115 W. First Street, Laurel, MT.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to the Department of Environmental Quality, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901.

Sincerely,

Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau